

**Secretary of Defense/Secretary of the Navy  
FY 2009 Environmental Award  
Cultural Resources Management-Installation**

**MARINE CORPS BASE  
CAMP LEJEUNE NORTH CAROLINA**

**INTRODUCTION**

Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune (MCBCL), North Carolina, has a cultural heritage originating more than 9,000 years ago and continuing on to include the rich traditions brought by the Marine Corps when the base was established in 1941. The Cultural Resources Management Program is charged with implementing Camp Lejeune's strategy for assuring mission accomplishment while also conserving its wealth of cultural resources. The Camp Lejeune Cultural Resources Management (CRM) Program of the Environmental Conservation Branch is part of the Environmental Management Division and consists of one full time professional archaeologist, and one contract program analyst.

The CRM Program oversees a varied and complex array of historic properties. The approximately 156,000 acres that comprise the installation encompass an inventory of 1448 cultural resources, with more than 1260 prehistoric and historic archaeological sites. These sites have a long history within the base, ranging from the Early Archaic Period (8000 B.C.) to early European colonization and settlement. The prehistoric sites located at Camp Lejeune are associated with known and unknown linguistic groups who once lived in the area. The later prehistoric, or formative, period is associated the Algonquian linguistic group. In addition to extensive archaeological resources, the CRM program manages eight historic districts and buildings comprised of 188 historic architectural properties. Constructed during the mobilization of the Marine Corps for World War II, many of Camp Lejeune's buildings and developed areas remain as they were originally constructed, retaining a high degree of architectural integrity. To better manage and use these architectural resources, the team has developed a multiple property listing that identifies and evaluates all significant architectural properties and guidelines for the treatment of those properties.

**POSITION DESCRIPTION**

The CRM Program manages Camp Lejeune's historic properties in compliance with federal legislation and Department of Defense, Department of the Navy, and Marine Corps regulations while supporting the Base's training mission. The CRM Program is responsible for historic building management, inventorying and evaluating historic properties, conducting consultation with the North Carolina State Historic

Preservation Office (NCSHPO) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), reviewing proposed construction, maintenance, military training exercises, and associated land use undertakings, and developing and maintaining data files.

## BACKGROUND

Occupying approximately 244 square miles (156,000 acres) of land in Onslow and Jones Counties, North Carolina, MCB Camp Lejeune, MCAS New River, and MCOLF Oak Grove offer a wide range of geographic features which provides the Marines with diverse settings for multiple training exercises. The base topography is dominated by the sinuously curving New River and the 11 miles of beach stretching



along the Atlantic Ocean. The New River originates in northwestern Onslow County and flows to the southeast for a length of almost 25 miles. The area surrounding the New River is characterized by gently rolling slopes, flat savannah plains, bottomlands with wide floodplains, cypress swamps, and pocosins. The New River estuary and the Atlantic Ocean beaches, which provide an unsurpassed setting for amphibious training, also encouraged the adaptation and exploitation of the region's ecological resources by historic and prehistoric cultures. While the varied landscape provides the premier training facility of the Marine Corps, it also supplied an attractive environment for Native Americans and European settlers prior to the Marines' arrival in 1941.

## PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### Overall Cultural Resources Management

For the achievement period (FYs 2008-2009), the Camp Lejeune CRM Program has maintained an exemplary record of compliance despite the large inventory of historic properties to be inventoried, evaluated, protected and managed. Camp Lejeune's enormous holdings of undisturbed forests and its historical setting on the New River provide unique challenges to its CRM Program. To meet these challenges, an active, well-planned preservation strategy has been implemented. The soundness of the program is demonstrated by the Program's successful efforts to identify and evaluate cultural resources, the development of a positive relationship with the NCSHPO, and the integration of cultural resource management into new training and facility construction proposals. The following summarizes the accomplishments of the CRM Program during FYs 2008-2009:

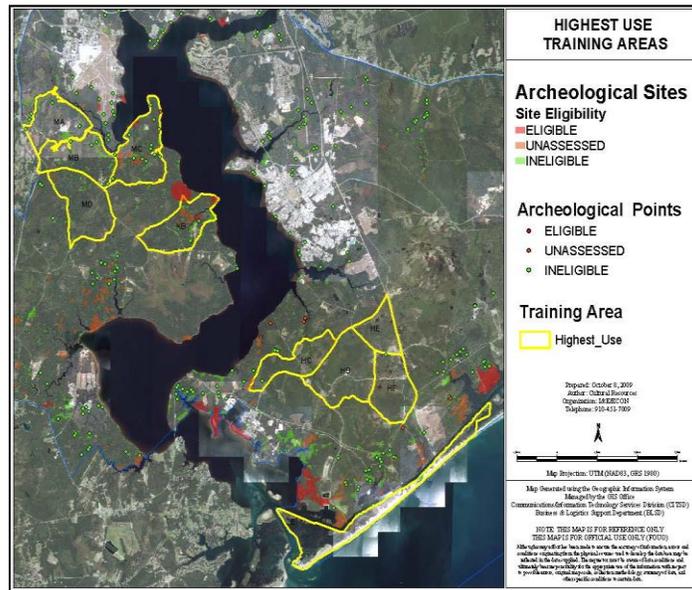
- Oversaw archaeological survey of 1106 acres resulting in the completion of a ten-year plan to finalize archaeological survey of nearly 77,000 acres of high probability soils and the recordation of 1260 sites, as well as completion of the historic buildings survey and evaluations resulting in a final inventory of eight historic districts comprised of 188 historic buildings .
- Completed National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) evaluation of 81 archaeological sites in support of the Grow-the-Force initiative, the Wallace Creek Regimental Area Complex development, Phases IV and V of the Family Housing Public/Private Venture, and the Reduction of Archaeological Constraints in Highest Use Training Areas aboard Base.
- Received the American Cultural Resources Association’s (ACRA) 2008 Quality Product Award for the publication “*Semper Fidelis, A Brief History of Onslow County, North Carolina, and Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune*”.

**Cultural Resources Studies in Support of Marine Corps Mission Through NRHP Evaluation of Archaeological Sites in Training Ranges**-Numerous archaeological

investigations were conducted during the achievement period in support of the Marine Corps Training Mission, which

resulted in completion of all required archaeological surveys in the training ranges and completion of NRHP evaluation of all unassessed archaeological sites in the Highest Use Training Areas. The purpose of the investigations is to reduce archaeological constraints in training areas based on a prioritized intensity of usage. All work in the total 10,721 acres of the Highest Use Training Areas has been completed, and only 41 acres (0.3%) of these ranges were found to have significant

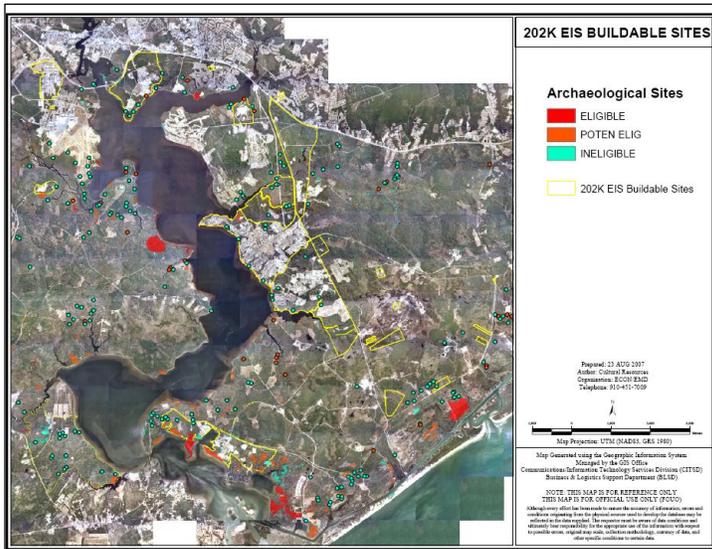
archaeological sites resulting in some degree of training constraints. Work is currently underway for NRHP evaluation in the High and Moderate Use Training Areas. This project has significantly reduced constraints on the training mission while also completing regulatory requirements for survey and evaluation of Camp Lejeune’s archaeological sites.



**Highest Use Training Areas Archaeological Data.**

**USMC Grow-the-Force Initiative and Resulting Cultural Resources Studies**-In support of the USMC Grow-the-Force initiative and supporting Environmental Impact Statement, National Register evaluation of 42 unassessed archaeological sites and assessment of potential impacts to eight historic districts aboard Base was completed in FY09. Through completion of the studies and successful consultation with NCSHPO to resolve potential adverse effects to historic properties, a finding of No Adverse Effect was completed in September 2009 and concurred with by NCSHPO. Close cooperation and teamwork among staff at Camp Lejeune Environmental Management Division, Marine Corps Installations East, and Naval Facilities Engineering Command Atlantic enabled the

participants to quickly identify cultural resource studies necessary for assessing the potential concerns and to implement a plan for assessing the potential impacts resulting from the Grow-the-Force initiative. This two-year effort was a tremendous challenge for the Cultural Resources Management Program and Camp Lejeune. Successful completion of the studies and consultation with NCSHPO in 2009 has enabled the Marine Corps to meet the goals and time-lines for this critical initiative.



**Grow-the-Force Cultural Resources Data.**

### Historic Buildings Management

The CRM Program manages 188 historic buildings in eight historic districts. During the achievement period, Camp Lejeune consulted with NCSHPO on the final inventory and evaluation of the Base's historic districts and buildings, as well as the final Guidelines for Historic Buildings Management. This effort has been ongoing for more than 10 years, and NCSHPO's concurrence with the final inventory and Guidelines has allowed the Base to fulfill preservation goals of our most significant historic buildings and also enables Camp Lejeune to meet mission critical administrative space and infrastructure needs.



**Building H 1, Former Naval Hospital.**

## Archaeological Resources

Camp Lejeune's CRM Program has accomplished the following goals in archaeological resource management during FYs 2008-2009:

- Site Inventory
- Site Protection and Compliance
- Research and Scientific Contributions

**Site Inventory**-Inventoried sites on Camp Lejeune include more than 1260 known archaeological sites. Information is stored on the Base's archaeological sites database. The archaeological sites under Camp Lejeune's management include sites dating from the Early Archaic Period (8,000 B.C.) through the early 20<sup>th</sup> century settlement of eastern North Carolina. A total of 108 new sites were inventoried during the achievement period. The recordation of these sites completed all Section 110 archaeological inventory requirements for Camp Lejeune.



**Base Archaeologist Briefs Marine on Site Testing in School of Infantry Training Area.**

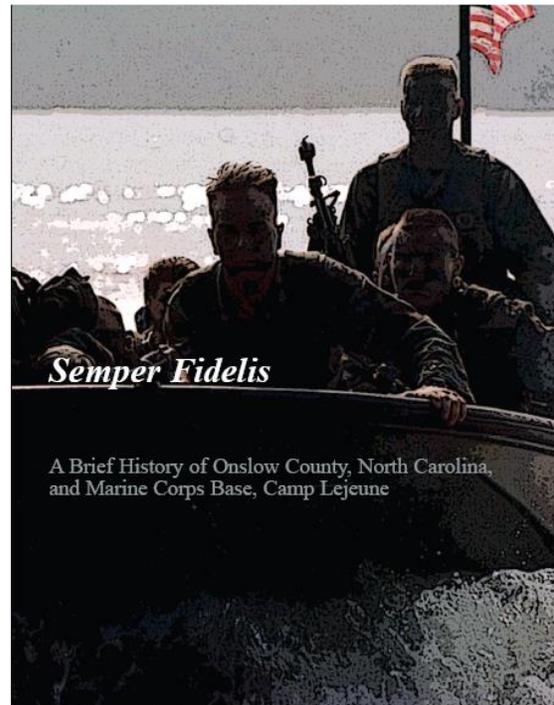
**Site Protection and Compliance**-All proposed training and construction actions at Camp Lejeune are reviewed through the NEPA process to evaluate their impact on recorded archaeological sites. In addition, archaeological surveys are conducted for those proposed actions that may impact unrecorded sites. To protect recorded sites from inadvertent damage by military units in the field, the CRM Program clearly marks its National Register eligible sites as off-limits to vehicular traffic and any form of digging. Proposed actions that may impact NRHP eligible or unassessed sites require consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office. A total of 407 military training and construction actions were reviewed for potential impacts to archaeological sites during the achievement period. This required the survey of 1106 acres, and NRHP evaluation of 58 unassessed sites.

**Research and Scientific Contributions**-On October 11, 2008, the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology, in association with the Department of Anthropology, East Carolina University, and the Southern Coastal Heritage Program hosted a symposium titled "Twenty-five Years and Counting: Current Archaeological Research in the North Carolina Coastal Plain." Data recovered from ten years of intensive archaeological surveys within the boundary of Camp Lejeune was presented at the symposium. The Camp Lejeune studies have resulted in the accumulation of archaeological and environmental data that suggest differences in land use during the Woodland Period and serves to broaden our understanding of this period in the region through the examination of spatial distribution

and densities of Woodland Period sites. The status of Woodland Period research in the New River estuary of Camp Lejeune was summarized and presented as a general framework for understanding prehistoric adaptations and settlement organizations in the Coastal Plain region of North Carolina.

## Cultural Resources Education

On September 28, 2008, the American Cultural Resources Association (ACRA) awarded Camp Lejeune with the 2008 Quality Product Award for the publication “*Semper Fidelis, A Brief History of Onslow County, North Carolina, and Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune*”. This outreach publication provides a narrative history of the installation, from the prehistory of the area, through the World War II origins of the base, and up to present operations. Further efforts are underway to construct historic monuments with plaques at various places aboard base to interpret significant historic events and locations. Phase I of the project constructed seven historic interpretive monuments on Base and in areas just outside of the installation boundary during FY09. Phase II construction of seven additional historic markers is currently underway. These efforts are part of a series of projects initiated by Camp Lejeune to manage its archaeological and historical resources, to educate Marines and Sailors on the proud heritage of the base, and to increase public appreciation of Camp Lejeune, its place in the local community, and its contributions to the Marine Corps and the Nation.



## CONCLUSION

Camp Lejeune has set the standard for Marine Corps excellence in cultural resource protection through the implementation of an innovative, effective Cultural Resources Management Program.

Recent successes have been accomplished through the formation of an effective partnership with the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, and by fully integrating cultural resource protection efforts with the Base I&E Department and Base S-3. The CRM Program has accepted the challenge of implementing proactive initiatives to identify and protect archaeological and historical resources through a period of significant growth on the Base. Our efforts have reaped significant rewards, as we have protected the last vestiges of past cultures while ensuring the viability of our training mission. The work accomplished by the CRM program has been key to successfully meeting the Base’s requirements for increased training and Grow-the-Force initiatives.